

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 AF-06 /077 W

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R 301630Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3587

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS LISBON 4319

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PO

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION IN MADEIRA

1. PPD DEMONSTRATION: LISBON PRESS REPORTED THAT JULY 27 PPD-SPONSORED RALLY IN FUNCHAL, MADEIRA, DREW ESTIMATED 25,000 PEOPLE. MILITANTS OF PS AND CDS WERE ALSO PRESENT. DEMONSTRATORS' DEMANDS INCLUDED: INCREASED AUTONOMY FOR MADEIRA; PLURALIST, REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL; RETURN OF RADIO RENASCENCA AND "REPUBLICA" TO RIGHTFUL OWNERS; AND OUSTER OF PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES. DEMONSTRATORS ALSO SOUGHT THE REMOVAL OF LEFTIST ELEMENTS FROM THE MADEIRA PLANNING BOARD. ATTEMPTED LEFTIST COUNTER DEMONSTRATION DREW NO MORE THAN FIVE DOZEN PARTICIPANTS.

2. MILITARY RESPONSE: MAJ. JULIO RIBEIRO DE OLIVEIRA, COMMANDER OF THE MADEIRA OPERATIONAL COMMAND (COMANDO OPERACIONAL DE UNCLASSIFIED

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MADEIRA--COPMAD) ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE PPD LEADERS TO CALL OFF

DEMONSTRATION, CITING HIGH LEVEL OF TENSION IN PORTUGAL. WHEN UNSUCCESSFUL, HE ORGANIZED "PREVENTIVE ACTION" BY MILITARY, POLICE, AND EVEN CREW MEMBERS FROM FRIGATE "PEREIRA DA SILVA." FROM JULY 25 TO 27, MILITARY ROADBLOCKS STOPPED OVER 2,000 CARS IN SEARCH OF WEAPONS. MILITARY OPENED FIRE ON ONE CAR THAT ATTEMPTED TO RUN ROADBLOCK, WOUNDING SEVEN. FRIGATE PATROLLED OFFSHORE. OFFERS BY 26 SEPARATE LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS TO AID MILITARY IN PREVENTION OF DEMONSTRATION OR IN ROADBLOCKS WERE REFUSED.

3. LEFTIST HEADQUARTERS ATTACKED: CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT ON JULY 25, PPD MEMBERS ATTACKED HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNION OF THE PEOPLE OF MADEIRA (UNIAO DO POVO DA MADEIRA-UPM), A LEFTIST SPLINTER GROUP FROM THE MADEIRA BRANCH OF FEC-M1. US CONSULAR AGENT REPORTED CROWD ANGERED BY UPM TAKEOVER OF BUILDING THAT HAD EARLIER HOUSED CHILD-CARE CENTER. MILITARY INTERVENTION PREVENTED PROPERTY DAMAGE OR VIOLENCE.

4. AUG 3 INDEPENDENCE DEMONSTRATION: CONSULAR AGENT REPORTS THAT NOTICES ARE BEING PASSED AROUND FUNCHAL CALLING FOR PARTICIPATION IN A SUNDAY, AUG . 3 PRO-INDEPENDENCE DEMONSTRATION.

5. COMMENTS: RELATIVELY QUIET UNTIL NOW, MADEIRA HAS BEGUN TO REACT TO THE LEFTIST TRENDS IN CONTINENTAL PORTUGAL. A LATENT DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE IS NOW FINDING EXPRESSION, NOT AS STRONGLY TO DATE AS IN THE AZORES, BUT THE MADEIRA SEPARATISTS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY OUTSPOKEN.
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